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COUNTRY Rumania

DATE DISTR. 16 SEP 50

SUBJECT Offer of Romanoexport to Sell
 Confiscated Jewelry
 25X1

NO. OF PAGES 2

PLACE ACQUIRED

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF INFO.

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

25X1

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

25X1 1. During the month of April 1950, the Rumanian Government, through Romanoexport,
 offered for sale in Western Europe certain jewelry which had been confiscated
 from private persons in Rumania. The jewelry is at present in the vaults of
 25X1 the National Bank in Bucharest and is inventoried under the title "Released
 to the Ministry of Foreign Trade." It is believed that in addition to those
 25X1 already offered for sale, there are many more articles including precious
 stones, which the Rumanian Government will sell providing the proper
 price is offered.

2. The Rumanian authorities, in order to facilitate the entry of prospective
 buyers into Rumania, and the carrying of jewelry from the country, have
 proposed the following plans:

a. To provide a military escort from Bucharest to the Rumanian border for
 the buyers and/or for the shipment of jewels, and to arrange with the
 Hungarian authorities to have the latter do the same;

25X1 b. To accord landing and diplomatic privileges to [] airplane (and to arrange
 for the same privileges with other Satellite countries) to be chartered by
 the buyers to fly from Zurich to Bucharest.

3. The Rumanian authorities have tentatively placed an evaluation of \$700,000
 on the lot of jewelry currently being offered, but in order that it may be
 more easily sold, have officially quoted values ranging from \$500,000 to
 \$700,000. The Rumanian Government will not allow the jewels to leave Rumania
 until payment has been received.

4. The following is a breakdown of the collection now being offered for sale:

a. Lot No. 1, representing about 65 percent of the total stock value, contains
 bracelets, ear-jewelry (rings, boutons, pendants, et cetera), rings,
 broaches, clips (blouse or lapel ornaments), colliers, diadems, and
 pearls. In general, it is a collection of fine artistic work, including
 brilliants, diamonds, rubies, sapphires, onyxes, emeralds, and topazes. The
 larger brilliants range in size from four to twelve carats. It contains:

1) Over 50 percent of single pieces evaluated at approximately from
 \$5,000 to \$10,000 each.

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- 2) About 15 percent of the pieces evaluated at between \$2,000 and \$5,000 each.
- 3) About 13 percent of the pieces evaluated at between \$1,000 and \$2,000 each.
- 4) About 6 percent of the pieces evaluated at between \$700 and \$1,000 each.

The balance (about 14 percent) are objects of minor value, such as gold and platinum items with small stones and enamel work, consisting of poudriers, cigarette cases, chains, medallions, and bracelets.

- b. Lot No. 2, representing about 23 percent of the total stock value, contains:

- 1) Approximately 10 percent of large pieces with a value of from \$7,000 to \$10,000 each.
- 2) About 23 percent of the pieces evaluated at from \$2,000 to \$4,000 each.
- 3) About 20 percent of the pieces evaluated at from \$1,000 to \$2,000 each.
- 4) About 7 percent of the pieces evaluated at from \$800 to \$1,000 each.

The balance of 40 percent consists of items valued at under \$800 per piece, the majority of which are items of gold and platinum without stones. The general character of this entire lot is substantially different from Lot No. 1, which contains almost no items without stones and is of high workmanship value. This means that Lot No. 2 has a high gold and platinum value as against the stone and workmanship value of Lot No. 1. Aside from this difference the two lots are substantially the same.

- c. Lot No. 3, representing about 12 percent of the total stock in value, consists (with the exception of a few minor items) largely of three pieces, valued substantially at between \$15,000 and \$50,000, with brilliants of no less than 10 carats each, plus one large rose pearl.

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